THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. No such racket as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 26th January, 2000 has been detected.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(d) and (e) Some incidents get reported wherein misuse of STD ISD facilities have been noticed involving different *modus operandi*. Involvement of telecom officials, if any, is promptly investigated and suitable action taken in each case. Besides, critical studies of different technologies have been made and suitable modifications in the systems have been decided and implemented to stop such misuse. All field Offices have also been instructed to keep special watch on such possible misuse.

Kannada Telephone Directory

2001. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore Telecom District has launched Kannada Telephone Directory last year;

(b) if so, the number of copies printed and those distributed so far;

(c) the total number of customers in Bangalore city and Rural Telecom District;

(d) whether Karnataka Government and its public sector Undertakings, Boards and Corporations based in Bangalore have taken Kannada copies;

(e) how many Kannada copies proposed to be printed during the next year; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to ensure that large number of Kannada copies are taken by the people and Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 20,000 copies were printed and all distributed to the subscribers.

(c) The total number of customers in Bangalore city and Bangalore rural, as on 29.2.2000 are 5,75,290 and 62,999 respectively.

(d) Sir, while the state government have taken the required number of copies of Kannada Telephone directory, more than 60% of the copies have been distributed to the subscribers in rural areas of Bangalore Telecom District.

(e) and (f) Telephone directories in regional languages are printed according to the demand. The next Kannada Telephone directory is to be printed based on the demand of the subscribers.

Installation of Telephone Connections in Village Pochanpur Extension, New Delhi

2002. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of persons have registered their name for installation of telephone connections under the scheme of Rs. 1500/- and the telephone authorities have given assurance to them that they will get telephone connections immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of persons from village Pochanpur Extension B-Block, Shyam Kunj, New Delhi who have registered themselves as on November, 1999 could not get telephone connections so far; and

(d) if so, by when the telephone connections are likely to be installed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CGMs of all the Telecom Circles including MTNL Delhi/Mumbai have been authorized to fix flexible registration charges on special occasions such as festivals etc. The scheme was operative in MTNL, Delhi & Mumbai and some of the other Telecom Circles such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, North-East, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh Telecom Circles and Kolkata Telephones. A good number of person have registered for new telephone connections in various parts of the country.

No assurance has been given for immediate provision of telephone connections. However, the connections are being provided as early as possible subject to technical feasibility.

(c) and (d) Sir, three persons have applied for new telephone connections to be installed in Village Pochanpur Extension, B-Block, Shyam Kunj, Delhi - 45 during the month of November, 1999. The telephone connections could not be provided due to area being technically non-feasible due to paucity of underground cable pairs.